



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

OPERATION PREDATOR ARRESTS SURPASS 5,000

More than 1,000 international arrests were prompted by ICE initiative to protect children

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Michael J. Garcia, the Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and U.S. Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), Steven LaTourette (R-Ohio) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) announced today on Capitol Hill that more than 5,000 individuals have been arrested as part of the agency's "Operation Predator" initiative launched just 20 months ago.

The 5,000th individual arrested was Ukrainian national Mikhail Kleyman, a 68-year-old Solon, Ohio, resident.

"One of our greatest obligations at DHS is to ensure the safety and security of the American people," said Garcia. "With the arrest of Mikhail Kleyman, we mark a sobering milestone in our effort to protect children from those who would rob them of their innocence. Whether the criminal is a U.S. citizen who thinks they can travel overseas to molest children, a pornographer who trades in images of child sexual abuse, or a foreign national who has lost the privilege to remain in the United States because of a crime against a child, ICE will identify, arrest, and, where possible, remove them."

According to police reports, Solon Police Department officers responded to a call July 2, 2004, from the Solon Community Center in regard to a report that an adult male had inappropriately touched a 13-year-old mentally challenged girl at the community pool. The girl's caretaker and the lifeguard on duty witnessed the incident. Officers arrested Kleyman at the scene.

The office of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason accepted prosecution of the case. On Dec. 15, 2004, Kleyman was convicted in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court for the offense of Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition and sentenced to probation. Subsequently, ICE agents arrested Kleyman and began the process to deport him. Kleyman is currently in ICE custody in Oakdale, La.

Operation Predator evolved out of ICE's mission to find and deport illegal aliens -- particularly those with criminal records -- and reflects the agency's traditional public safety mission. But in addition to

cases like Kleyman's of foreign nationals whose crimes render them deportable, Operation Predator also targets those who commit other crimes of exploitation against children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists and Internet pornographers.

"These results are unprecedented in law enforcement," said Garcia. "It is only through the teamwork and resolve of state, local and international law enforcement and organizations like the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, World Vision, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network that we have been able to successfully pursue the predators who view cyberspace as another playground to stalk."

The top 10 states for Operation Predator arrests, listed in alphabetical order, are: Arizona (185), California (1,317), Colorado (125), Florida (189), Illinois (209), Michigan (128), Minnesota (147), New Jersey (369), New York (317) and Texas (448).

Operation Predator arrests fall into four general categories:

Category One: Foreign National Child Predators

More than 85 percent of the arrests made under Operation Predator have been foreign national sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. To date, more than 2,100 of these predators have been deported. One recent example:

- *Teacher Who Raped Mentally Disabled Girl Deported To Russia:* In January, ICE deported Vladimir Olegovich Brusilov to his native Russia from Dallas, Texas. Brusilov, 48, avoided immigration authorities for years by falsely claiming to be a U.S. citizen and moving to Texas, after he was convicted of third-degree assault in Colorado in 1997 for raping a mentally disabled female victim. In Texas, Brusilov again targeted a vulnerable girl in 2001, sexually assaulting a 16-year-old student at a school where he worked. Brusilov's prior conviction made him subject to deportation.

Category Two: International Child Sex Tourists

Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE's attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents made the first 12 arrests under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act, which was enacted in 2003. To take one example:

- *86-Year-Old Man Planned Sex With Preteen Girls In The Philippines:* ICE agents arrested John W. Seljan in October 2003 as he prepared to board a flight at Los Angeles International Airport to engage in sex with two young Filipino girls, ages 9 and 12. In Seljan's luggage, ICE agents discovered pornographic materials, sexual aids, and nearly 100 pounds of candy. In addition, Seljan held several thousand dollars in U.S. and Filipino currency. A subsequent search of his residence turned up more child pornography. Seljan was convicted on Nov. 19, 2004. He faces 270 years in prison when he is sentenced in March.

Category Three: Human Smuggling And Trafficking Of Children

Criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and

younger. In one case, a predator tried to purchase nine-to-eleven year old girls from Mexico. ICE agents arrested the individual when he traveled to Arizona to have sex with the girls. Another example:

- *Irvine Couple Charged for Holding Egyptian Girl as Domestic Slave:* Eid Youssef Ibrahim, 44, and Amal Ahmed Ewis-abd Motelib, 41, are under indictment on involuntary servitude charges for allegedly enslaving a 12-year-old girl in their garage for two years and forcing her to work as a domestic servant for their family. The couple, who were married at the time of the alleged offense, are accused of conspiring to hold the victim in involuntary servitude and obtain her services by force and coercion.

Category Four: Internet Child Pornography

Drawing on ICE's expertise at investigating cyber crime, ICE is tackling criminal activity that crosses the nation's virtual borders. A key case:

More Than 1,200 Arrested In Global Internet Child Pornography Case: In what is believed to be the largest Internet child pornography investigation to date and the first time the U.S. government has targeted the financial side of Internet child pornography, ICE agents have arrested 191 individuals in the United States as part of an ongoing probe into Regpay, an Internet billing company in Minsk, Belarus. In January 2004, the company was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography Web sites worldwide and operating at least four child porn Web sites of its own. The investigation has also resulted in guilty pleas by two officers of Connections USA, a Florida firm that processed Regpay's U.S. credit card transactions.

In addition, ICE investigators have provided leads growing out of this case to foreign law enforcement, resulting in more than 1,000 arrests in countries around the world.

Having dismantled Regpay's leadership, ICE agents then focused on the company's subscribers. Some of the subscribers arrested to date include a number of individuals with direct access to children, including teachers, priests, school principals, coaches, camp counselors, pediatricians, circus clowns, Boy Scout leaders and police officers. Many of these individuals were also found to have been involved in the production and distribution of child pornography.

Additional information about all of these cases and about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.